



STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting on January 23, 2009 via Tele Conference

The State Board of Education shall sustain a vision of high skills, creative thinking, and love of knowledge and learning for every student by setting education policy that ensures student achievement in a safe and healthy learning environment.

Approved Special Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2009

Present:

SBE: Tom James, Chair; Ruth Stokes, Vice Chair; Chris Robbins; Susan Schill; Fayneese Miller; Kathy Larsen; Bill Corrow

DOE: Armando Vilaseca; Bill Talbott; Mark Oettinger, Carol King, Jill Remick, Bill Romond, Kathy Flanagan

Item A: Call to Order

Tom James, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Item B: Updates

James updated Board members and others regarding the education cost discussion proposed for Thursday, January 29.

Item C: FY2010 Budget

Document(s): FY2010 Ed. Fund Grants – Statutory vs. level funding

Discussion: Bill Talbott reviewed the spreadsheet sent to Board members via email. The document provided information requested by members at its 1/20/09 budget discussion. The spreadsheet provided FY2010 Education Fund Grants at two levels: meeting the current statutory requirement and level funding.

Motion: Chris Robbins moved, seconded by Fayneese Miller, that the State Board of Education support the Governor's recommendation to level fund per pupil spending and categorical grants to schools for FY 2010, with the understanding that applicable statutory changes will be required. Motion approved 6-1 (Larsen).

Comments from Board members prior to this action included:

The Board recognizes that all of state government, private business, and taxpayers are being asked to make extraordinarily hard choices in these difficult times. The State Board of Education will be consultative and compassionate in supporting local boards in achieving this fiscal imperative.

The Board acknowledges this decision will be difficult for local boards and districts, given that districts have statutory requirements, such as tuition payments and technical education costs over which they have no control.

In addition, the Board conversation emphasized that if the Legislature does not make the necessary changes to applicable statutes this recommended action via the motion can not occur because the Boards and the Department must comply with the law.

Adjourn

Motion: At 4:10 p.m., Chris Robbins moved, seconded by Susan Schill, that the State Board of Education adjourn the January 23, 2009 special meeting of the State Board of Education

Minutes prepared by Carol King